

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-77. **(cancelled)**.

78. **(currently amended)** A method of administering a biologically active protein which is not insulin to a subject, said method comprising

topically applying to the skin or epithelium of the subject a composition comprising the protein in conjunction with an effective amount of a positively charged carrier, [[said]]the positively charged carrier comprising a positively charged backbone having attached positively charged ~~branching~~ efficiency groups[[,]];

wherein the biologically active protein is not modified by covalent attachment to a negatively charged backbone and

~~wherein the association between the positively charged carrier and the biologically active protein is non-covalent~~ directly contact to form a non-covalent complex;

wherein the positively charged backbone comprises a member selected from the group consisting of polyalkyleneimine, a positively charged polypeptide, a peptoid, an electronic mimic of a polypeptide and a steric mimic of a polypeptide;

wherein the positively charged efficiency groups are amino acid sequences selected from the group consisting of (gly)_p-RGRDDRRQRRR-(gly)_q, (gly)_p-YGRKKRRQRRR-(gly)_q, (gly)_p-RKKRRQRRR-(gly)_q, (gly)_{n1}-(gly)_{n2}, gly₃-arg₇, GGGRKKRRQRRR, and (gly)_{n3}-(arg)_{n4},

wherein the subscripts p and q are independently an integer from 0 to 20,

wherein n1 is an integer from 0 to 20 and n2 is an odd integer from about 5 to about 25, and

wherein n3 is an integer from 3 to about 5 and n4 is an odd integer from about 7 to about 17.

79. **(currently amended)** The method according to claim 78 wherein the composition provides greater transdermal delivery of the biologically active protein relative to the biologically active protein[[agent]] in the absence of the carrier.
80. **(previously presented)** The method according to claim 79 in which the biologically active protein has therapeutic activity.
- 81.-87. **(cancelled).**
88. **(previously presented)** The method according to claim 80 in which the composition is a controlled release composition or sustained release composition.
89. **(cancelled).**
90. **(currently amended)** The method according to claim 80 in which the ~~therapeutic~~ biologically active protein is a botulinum toxin.

91. **(previously presented)** The method according to claim 90 in which the botulinum toxin is selected from botulinum toxin serotypes A, B, C, D, E, F and G.
92. **(previously presented)** The method according to claim 90 in which the botulinum toxin comprises a botulinum toxin derivative.
93. **(previously presented)** The method according to claim 90 in which the botulinum toxin comprises a recombinant botulinum toxin.
94. **(previously presented)** The method according to claim 90 in which the botulinum toxin is administered to provide an aesthetic and/or cosmetic benefit to the subject.
95. **(withdrawn)** The method according to claim 90 in which the botulinum toxin is administered to the subject for prevention or reduction of symptoms associated with muscle spasm or cramping.
96. **(previously presented)** The method according to claim 90 in which the botulinum toxin and the positively charged carrier are administered topically to a site on the face of the subject.
97. **(previously presented)** The method according to claim 90 in which the botulinum toxin and the positively charged carrier are administered topically to a site on the subject other than the face.

98.-240. (**cancelled**).